

Proceedings of the Committee

Monday 9 June 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Graham Evans
Kwasi Kwarteng
Teresa Pearce

Mr Michael Thornton
Dame Angela Watkinson

1. Estimates Day debate

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Fraud and error

Ordered, that the letter from the Minister for Welfare Reform of 29 May 2014 on the Single Fraud Investigation Service be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

3. Universal Credit

Resolved, That the Committee visit Hammersmith in connection with Universal Credit implementation.

4. Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, that the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into Employment and Support Allowance be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

WCA0204 Parkinson's UK
WCA0205 Disability Rights UK

Lisa Coleman, Senior Vice President, Health Market, Atos, and Dr Angela Graham, Clinical Director and Helen Hall, Head of Communications and Customer Relations, Atos Healthcare, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 June at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 11 June 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams	Nigel Mills
Graham Evans	Anne Marie Morris
Sheila Gilmore	Teresa Pearce
Glenda Jackson	Mr Michael Thornton
Kwasi Kwarteng	Dame Angela Watkinson

1. Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP, Minister for Disabled People, Jason Feeney CBE, Benefits Director, James Bolton, Deputy Director, Health and Wellbeing Directorate, and Iain Walsh, Deputy Director, Working Age Benefits Division, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 June at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 18 June 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams	Anne Marie Morris
Sheila Gilmore	Mr Michael Thornton
Glenda Jackson	Dame Angela Watkinson
Nigel Mills	

1. Monitoring DWP's performance in 2012-2013

Draft Special Report, *Monitoring the performance of the Department for Work and Pensions in 2012-13: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2013-14*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's Response to the Third Report from the Committee in Session 2013-14 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. Universal Credit

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 June at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 25 June 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Nigel Mills

Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce
Mr Michael Thornton

1. Universal Credit implementation

Draft Special Report, *Universal Credit implementation: Monitoring DWP's performance in 2012-13: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2013-14*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's Response to the Fifth Report from the Committee in Session 2013-14 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.
Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 July at 9.15 am

Wednesday 2 July 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Graham Evans

Sheila Gilmore

Glenda Jackson

Nigel Mills

Anne Marie Morris

Teresa Pearce

Dame Angela Watkinson

1. Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Access to Work

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into Access to Work be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

ATW0001 Dr Sarah Powell

ATW0003 Mrs Jacqueline M Bielby

ATW0004 Henry Skinner

ATW0005 Penny Cartwright

ATW0006 Carolyn Hunt

ATW0007 Lisa Warnock

ATW0009 Phil White

ATW0011 People First England

ATW0012 Marie Vickers

ATW0013 Eva Navarro Lopez

ATW0014 Nia Coleman

ATW0015 Audrey Gardiner

ATW0016 Sebastian Cunliffe

ATW0017 United Response - Cornwall Supported Employment

ATW0018 Margaret Malpas

ATW0019 Helen Phillips

ATW0020 Royal Association for Deaf People

ATW0023 Stuart Wilson
ATW0024 Elvire Roberts
ATW0025 The Deaf Agency Limited
ATW0026 Lina Kankeviciute
ATW0027 Toby Burton
ATW0028 Stephen Hudson
ATW0030 Nick Beese
ATW0031 Jackie Griffiths
ATW0032 Susan Gill
ATW0034 Colette Hogan
ATW0039 Adolfs Kristapsons
ATW0040 Rachael Hayes
ATW0042 Shana Weinbaum
ATW0043 Charlene Spires
ATW0044 Jacqueline Barnes-Jones
ATW0045 Stephen Martin
ATW0046 Anna-Marie Reilly
ATW0047 Craig Pothecary
ATW0048 Sumita Paul
ATW0049 Christopher Clelland
ATW0050 Alexandra Shaw
ATW0051 Lesley Sheldon
ATW0052 Asif Iqbal
ATW0053 Alison Crook
ATW0054 Pilgrims' Friend Society
ATW0055 Clare Vinton
ATW0056 Jenna Mistry
ATW0057 Laura Mcquillan
ATW0058 Ruth Nortey
ATW0059 Martin Willis
ATW0060 Deafness, Cognition and Language Centre
ATW0061 Dimensions
ATW0062 Shirley L Ryall, Teresa Shuttleworth, Nancy Doyle, Margaret Saunders and
Sharon Patmore
ATW0063 Jennifer Dodds, Team HaDo Ltd
ATW0064 Ian Noon
ATW0065 Susan Billam
ATW0068 Julie Fletcher Interpreter Ltd
ATW0069 Interpreting Matters Ltd
ATW0070 Clare Redstone
ATW0074 Catherine Nightingale
ATW0075 Sense
ATW0076 Scott Challenger
ATW0077 Helen Faulkes
ATW0078 Body and Soul

ATW0080 Action on Disability and Work UK
ATW0081 Claire Jones
ATW0083 Remploy
ATW0086 Sandwell Deaf Community Association
ATW0087 Siobhan O'Donovan
ATW0088 Elizabeth Moon
ATW0089 Michele Taylor
ATW0091 Pluss
ATW0092 Revd Dr Hannah Lewis
ATW0093 Michael Brickliffe
ATW0096 Bashir Ayub
ATW0097 Paul Anthony
ATW0098 Firdous Khurshid
ATW0099 Sandra Totterdell
ATW0100 Zafar Iqbal
ATW0101 Royal National Institute of Blind People group
ATW0102 Heather Peachey
ATW0103 Papworth Trust
ATW0104 Julian Peedle-Calloo
ATW0105 Ranjit Singh
ATW0106 Dexy Wallace
ATW0107 Jane Hunt
ATW0108 Mrs Deborah Kapaj
ATW0109 Moodswings
ATW0111 Shaping Our Lives
ATW0112 Dara Trainor
ATW0113 Olive Lycett
ATW0115 Dyslexia Adult Network
ATW0116 Independent Dyslexia Consultants
ATW0117 Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters
ATW0119 Andrew Sutcliffe
ATW0120 Breakthrough UK Ltd
ATW0121 Sanjay Mistry
ATW0122 Inet Interpreting Ltd
ATW0125 Dr Ju Gosling
ATW0126 Lynette Rushworth, SignHealth
ATW0127 Shafait Aslam
ATW0130 Claire Perdomo
ATW0132 Kay White
ATW0133 Action on Hearing Loss
ATW0135 Liana Lloyd
ATW0136 Paula Fye
ATW0137 Omeima Mudawi-Rowlings
ATW0138 Claire Dodds, Team HaDo Ltd
ATW0139 Verity Joyce

ATW0140 Padraic Joyce
ATW0141 Jennifer Smith
ATW0142 Wayne Mcmillan
ATW0144 Karen Newby
ATW0145 Mariella Reina
ATW0146 David Phippard
ATW0147 Tony Sutton
ATW0149 Stuart Harrison
ATW0150 Joanne Harrison
ATW0151 Michael Achtman
ATW0153 Caroline O'Neill
ATW0154 Tamsyn Hockaday
ATW0157 Bob Marsh
ATW0159 The Action Group
ATW0160 Association of Sign Language Interpreters
ATW0161 Marije Davidson
ATW0163 Argonaut Community Enterprises
ATW0164 Ian Hodgetts
ATW0166 CommunityID and CommunicationID
ATW0167 Cleo Parise
ATW0171 Genevieve Isherwood
ATW0172 Equal in Salford Staff Group
ATW0173 Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Deafness
ATW0174 Zebra-Uno
ATW0175 National Deaf Children's Society
ATW0176 Deaf2work
ATW0177 Darren Townsend-Handscomb
ATW0178 UK Council on Deafness
ATW0179 Louis Neethling
ATW0180 Caroline Corrigan
ATW0182 Simon Horseman
ATW0183 Dyslexia Action
ATW0184 Matthew Royce
ATW0185 Elizabeth Bojas
ATW0187 Christopher Bojas
ATW0188 Matthew Daniel Eddy
ATW0189 Gregory Pierssene
ATW0190 Lottie Powell
ATW0191 Josie Smith
ATW0192 Claro Learning Ltd
ATW0193 Deafconnect
ATW0194 Colette Phippard
ATW0195 Tessa Padden
ATW0196 Thomas Mulloy
ATW0197 Disability Dynamics Ltd

ATW0198 Lynn Shannon
ATW0199 Mental Health Awareness and Development
ATW0200 Jeff Mcwhinney
ATW0201 Signingworks Ltd
ATW0202 Employment Related Services Association (ERSA)
ATW0203 Deaf Hope Project
ATW0204 Camilla Arnold
ATW0206 Jane Foulston
ATW0207 Social Firms Scotland
ATW0208 Deafblind Scotland
ATW0209 Clare Wadsworth
ATW0210 Sally Reynolds
ATW0211 Solar Bear Ltd
ATW0213 Diocese of Liverpool
ATW0214 British Association for Supported Employment
ATW0215 Peter Kane
ATW0218 Mark Healy
ATW0219 SignHealth
ATW0220 Sam Calder
ATW0221 Royal British Legion Industries
ATW0222 British Deaf Association
ATW0223 People First (Self Advocacy)
ATW0225 Deafinite Interpreters
ATW0226 National Autistic Society
ATW0227 Randstad Student and Worker Support
ATW0230 British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust
ATW0231 Spectrum Centre for Independent Living
ATW0232 Matthew Sykes
ATW0233 BID Services
ATW0234 Lyndsey Sunter
ATW0235 Department for Work and Pensions
ATW0236 Graeae Theatre Company
ATW0237 National Deaf Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
(Northern Arm: York, Newcastle and Manchester)
ATW0238 Deaf Direct
ATW0239 Natspec: Association of National Specialist Colleges
ATW0240 Prospects
ATW0242 Roger Beeson
ATW0243 Clare Mitchell
ATW0244 Joanna Wootten
ATW0245 Solutions 4 Community Support Ltd
ATW0247 Scope
ATW0248 Equal Lives
ATW0250 Mind (on behalf of mental health organisations)
ATW0251 University College London

ATW0252 Peterborough Diocesan Board Of Finance
ATW0253 Caglar Kimyoncu
ATW0254 Mencap
ATW0255 Mencap (EasyRead version)
ATW0256 Richard Dunford
ATW0257 Conrad Keil
ATW0259 Ian Reynolds
ATW0261 Pauline Latchem
ATW0262 Nicola Evans
ATW0264 Steven Wynne
ATW0267 Diana Wright Solutions Ltd
ATW0269 Inclusion London
ATW0271 Remark! Ltd
ATW0272 Hampshire Unison
ATW0274 Rebecca Barber
ATW0275 Eze Ani
ATW0277 Dominic Caswell
ATW0278 Stephen Hurley
ATW0279 UK Forum for Hidden and Fluctuating
ATW0280 Visual Language Professionals
ATW0282 Signing Network CIC
ATW0283 Jack Lopresti MP on behalf of South Gloucestershire British Sign Language
Forum
ATW0284 Shaun Hamblett
ATW0285 Business Disability Forum
ATW0286 Disability Rights UK
ATW0288 Grant Thornton
ATW0290 N G Nicholson
ATW0293 National Union of British Sign Language Interpreters
ATW0295 Rebecca Britton
ATW0296 Dr Dai O'Brien

Mike Adams OBE, Chief Executive Officer, Essex Coalition of Disabled People, and Liz Sayce OBE, Chief Executive Officer, Disability Rights UK, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 July at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 16 July 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Graham Evans

Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce

Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Nigel Mills

Mr Michael Thornton
Dame Angela Watkinson

1. Access to Work

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into Access to Work be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

ATW0297	Craig Jones
ATW0298	Constantina Christou
ATW0299	Robin Bray-Hurren
ATW0300	Ali Gordon
ATW0301	Jonathan Ko
ATW0302	Eleanor Craik
ATW0304	Sam Roxburgh
ATW0305	John Townsend Trust
ATW0306	Candoco Dance Company
ATW0308	Jo Lindley

2. DWP Main Estimate 2014-15 and Annual Report & Accounts 2013-14

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Petition

The Committee considered a petition to the House from residents of the UK concerning the use of food banks (presented by Rachel Reeves MP), and observations from DWP.

4. Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report, *Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 302.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 September at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 3 September 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Graham Evans

Glenda Jackson

Kwasi Kwarteng

Nigel Mills

Teresa Pearce

Mr Michael Thornton

1. Fraud and error in the benefits system

Draft Special Report, *Fraud and error in the benefits system: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2013-14*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's Response to the Sixth Report from the Committee of Session 2013-14, and the letter to the Chair from the Minister for Welfare Reform, dated 29 May 2014, were appended to the Special Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Third Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

2. Personal Independence Payment

Ordered, That written evidence received from the Department for Work and Pensions on progress with Personal Independence Payment implementation be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

3. Access to Work

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into Access to Work be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

ATW0308	Jo Lindley
ATW0309	Rachael Parker
ATW0312	Yasmin Kovic
ATW0313	Josef Baines
ATW0314	Angela Spielsinger

ATW0315	Edward J Richards
ATW0316	Olivier Jamin
ATW0317	Ms Kelly West
ATW0318	Maria Barroso
ATW0319	Kath Sutherland (-Cash)
ATW0320	Faye Stewart
ATW0321	Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children
ATW0322	Deafinitely Theatre
ATW0323	Fiona Garfield
ATW0326	University of Manchester's Disabled Staff Network
ATW0327	Bristol Disability Equality Forum
ATW0328	Carol Cuming
ATW0329	Stephen Mckenna
ATW0330	#StopChanges2ATW
ATW0331	Donaldson's School
ATW0332	United Response
ATW0333	Jackie Wan
ATW0334	South West London and St. Georges Mental Health Trust
ATW0335	Living Options Devon
ATW0336	Justine Smyth
ATW0337	DeafPLUS
ATW0338	Action on Disability and Work UK
ATW0339	Jason Vessey

Andy Rickell, Chief Executive Officer, Action on Disability and Work UK, Fazilet Hadi, Group Director, RNIB, and Marije Davidson, Equality and Diversity Advisor, York St John University, gave oral evidence.

Nicola Oliver, Individual Placement with Support Project Coordinator, Centre for Mental Health, Ciara Lawrence, Campaigns Assistant, and Ailis Hardy, Staff Development Coordinator, Mencap, and Rachel Brown, and Susan Askew, Workplace Support Consultant, National Autistic Society, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 September at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 10 September 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Graham Evans
Kwasi Kwarteng

Paul Maynard
Nigel Mills
Teresa Pearce

1. New Member: Declaration of Interests

Paul Maynard declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Support for housing costs

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Pension reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into progress with automatic enrolment and pension reforms.

4. Department for Work and Pensions Annual Report & Accounts 2013-14

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Personal Independence Payment

Mark Harper MP, Minister for Disabled People, and Noel Shanahan, Director General, Operations, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 15 October at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 15 October 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Kwasi Kwarteng
Paul Maynard
Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce

1. Pension reforms

Resolved, That the Committee visit the National Employment Savings Trust in London SE1 in connection with the inquiry into progress with auto-enrolment and pension reforms.

2. Universal Credit

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into Access to Work be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

ATW340	Equity
ATW341	TLT Solicitors LLP
ATW 342	Stop Changes to ATW, DeafATW, and NUBSLI (joint submission)

Dr Jules Dickinson, Member of Access to Work working group, Association of Sign Language Interpreters; Susan Scott-Parker, Chief Executive Officer, Business Disability Forum; Julie Fernandez; Gareth Parry, Disability Capability Director, Remploy; and Lee Reed, Equality and Diversity Officer, TLT Solicitors, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 22 October at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 22 October 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Paul Maynard
Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce

1. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Pre-appointment hearing

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Motion made and Question put, That the Committee inquire into benefit sanctions.—(*Debbie Abrahams.*)

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4	Noes, 3
Debbie Abrahams	Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore	Paul Maynard
Nigel Mills	Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce	

Question accordingly agreed to.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into benefit sanctions.

4. Pension reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into progress with automatic enrolment and pension reforms be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

AEP0029	Age UK
AEP0005	Aon Hewitt
AEP0030	Association of British Insurers
AEP0009	Association of Convenience Stores
AEP0006	Aviva
AEP0020	B&Ce - The People's Pension
AEP0004	British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association
AEP0010	Buck Consultants Limited
AEP0025	Business in the Community
AEP0016	CIPD
AEP0027	Department for Work and Pensions
AEP0001	Hisl Ltd
AEP0033	Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
AEP0021	Just Retirement
AEP0019	Mercer Ltd
AEP0031	National Association of Pension Funds
AEP0026	Now: Pensions

AEP0028	Partnership Assurance Group plc
AEP0003	Pensions Policy Institute
AEP0007	Scottish Life / Royal London
AEP0022	Scottish Widows
AEP0017	Shareaction
AEP0018	Siemens plc
AEP0012	Standard Life plc
AEP0011	Pensions Management Institute
AEP0024	The Pensions Regulator
AEP0015	Society of Pension Professionals
AEP0014	Tax Incentivised Savings Association (TISA)
AEP0008	Trades Union Congress
AEP0002	Vocalink
AEP0023	Which?

[Adjourned till Wednesday 29 October at 9.15 a.m.]

Tuesday 28 October 2014

The Chair, Sheila Gilmore, and Mr Michael Thornton visited the Hammersmith Jobcentre in London to discuss Universal Credit implementation, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 9 June 2014.

Wednesday 29 October 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
 Graham Evans
 Sheila Gilmore
 Glenda Jackson
 Kwasi Kwarteng
 Paul Maynard
 Nigel Mills
 Anne Marie Morris
 Mr Michael Thornton

1. Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

Mark Harper MP, Minister for Disabled People, and Colin Stewart, Work Services Director, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 November at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 5 November 2014

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Sheila Gilmore

Glenda Jackson

Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills

Anne Marie Morris

Teresa Pearce

Mr Michael Thornton

1. DWP Annual Report & Accounts 2013-14

Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Robert Devereux, Permanent Secretary, and Mike Driver, Finance Director General, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till this day at 2.30 p.m.]

Wednesday 5 November 2014

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce
Mr Michael Thornton

1. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19 November at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 19 November 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris

Teresa Pearce
Mr Michael Thornton

1. Disability and incapacity benefit reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Pension reforms

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into progress with automatic enrolment and pension reforms be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

AEP0034	NEST Corporation
AEP0035	Forum of Private Business
AEP0037	The Pensions Advisory Service
AEP0038	Financial Conduct Authority

Marcus Mason, Policy Manager, British Chambers of Commerce, Jim Bligh, Head of Public Services, Confederation of British Industry), Judith Hogarth, Interim Head of Employment and Pensions, EEF (The manufacturers' organisation), Mike Cherry, National Policy Chairman, Federation of Small Businesses, and Dr Ros Altmann, gave oral evidence. Jane Vass, Head of Policy, Age UK, Rachael Badger, Head of Policy Research for Families, Welfare and Work, Citizens Advice, Chris Curry, Director, Pensions Policy Institute, Michelle Cracknell, Chief Executive, The Pensions Advisory Service, and Tim Sharp, Pensions Policy Officer, Trades Union Congress, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 1 December at 4.15 p.m.]

Tuesday 25 November 2014

The Chair, Graham Evans, Nigel Mills and Mr Michael Thornton visited the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) in London to discuss progress with automatic enrolment, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 15 October 2014.

Monday 1 December 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Kwasi Kwarteng
Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce

1. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Pension reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

Otto Thoresen, Director General, Association of British Insurers, Jonathan Lipkin, Director of Public Policy, Investment Management Association, and Graham Vidler, Director of External Affairs, National Association of Pension Funds, gave oral evidence.

Adrian Boulding, Pensions Strategy Director, Legal & General, Tim Jones, Chief Executive Officer, National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), Morten Nilsson, Chief Executive, NOW: Pensions, Patrick Heath-Lay, Chief Executive Officer, People's Pension, and Jamie Jenkins, Head of Pensions Strategy, Standard Life, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 December at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 10 December 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Sheila Gilmore

Glenda Jackson

Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills

Anne Marie Morris

Mr Michael Thornton

1. Conduct of members during committee meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Committee reports: Government Responses and debates

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Social Security Advisory Committee

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Committee effectiveness

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Access to Work

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report, *Improving Access to Work for disabled people*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 17 December at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 17 December 2014

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams	Nigel Mills
Graham Evans	Anne Marie Morris
Sheila Gilmore	Teresa Pearce
Kwasi Kwarteng	Mr Michael Thornton
Paul Maynard	

1. Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into benefit sanctions policy beyond the Oakley Review be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

SAN0001 Clive Durdle
SAN0004 Steve Gwilliam
SAN0006 Peabody
SAN0007 Ian Wright
SAN0008 Pat's Petition and Carerwatch
SAN0010 Oxfordshire Welfare Rights
SAN0011 Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite and Professor Clare Bambra, Durham University
SAN0012 John Longden
SAN0013 Gipton Supported Independent Living
SAN0017 Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres
SAN0019 Scotlandtherapy
SAN0027 Theresa Curtis
SAN0028 Mark Waters
SAN0029 Glenn McDougall
SAN0034 Simon Moriarty
SAN0036 Tony Brauer
SAN0037 Mencap
SAN0040 Camden Citizens Advice Bureaux Service
SAN0044 Riverside Group Ltd
SAN0046 Andrew Stevens
SAN0047 Gill Thompson

SAN0048 Gary Thompson
SAN0049 Rights Advice Scotland
SAN0054 Welfare Conditionality: Sanctions, Support and Behaviour Change Project
SAN0056 Mr K G Robertson-Turner
SAN0057 Anne Dube
SAN0058 Epilepsy Society
SAN0059 Southway Housing Trust
SAN0060 Rossendale Citizens Advice Bureau
SAN0061 Catherine Hale
SAN0064 Nottingham City Council
SAN0065 Kirklees Financial Inclusion Steering Group
SAN0066 YMCA England
SAN0067 Stephen White
SAN0070 Carole Blaire
SAN0071 Scottish Unemployed Workers' Network
SAN0072 Newcastle upon Tyne Citizens Advice Bureau
SAN0075 Bernice Gaze
SAN0076 Tamara Galloway
SAN0077 Sonya Whitfield
SAN0079 Partnership Response from Newcastle upon Tyne - Coordinated By Newcastle City Council
SAN0080 Church Action on Poverty
SAN0081 Enable Scotland
SAN0082 Salvation Army
SAN0083 Portsmouth Citizens Advice Bureau
SAN0084 Peter Milnes
SAN0085 Glasgow Community Justice Authority
SAN0086 Castlemilk Law and Money Advice Centre
SAN0087 Boycott Workfare
SAN0088 Oxfam
SAN0090 Single Parent Action Network
SAN0091 Caritas Social Action Network
SAN0092 Chesterfield Citizens Advice Bureau
SAN0093 Community Housing Cymru Group
SAN0094 Preston Learning Disabilities Forum
SAN0095 Kilburn Unemployed Workers Group
SAN0096 Citizens Advice Scotland
SAN0097 St Mungo's Broadway
SAN0099 Disability Rights UK
SAN0100 Drugscope and Homeless Link
SAN0101 Falkirk Council
SAN0102 Communitylinks
SAN0103 Equity
SAN0104 Salford Financial Inclusion Practitioner's Group
SAN0105 Andrea Carey Fuller

SAN0106 Mind
 SAN0107 Highland Council
 SAN0108 Advice York
 SAN0109 Public and Commercial Services Union
 SAN0110 Dr David Webster
 SAN0111 Derbyshire County Council
 SAN0112 Single Homeless Project
 SAN0113 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the United Kingdom
 SAN0115 Gingerbread
 SAN0116 Andrew Smith
 SAN0117 Trevor Stanski
 SAN0119 North Staffordshire Advice Partnership
 SAN0120 Brent Citizens Advice Bureau
 SAN0122 Crisis
 SAN0124 The Fawcett Society
 SAN0125 Mr Jerry Lonsdale
 SAN0126 Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre
 SAN0127 The Trussell Trust
 SAN0131 Keep Volunteering Voluntary
 SAN0133 Francis Corrigan
 SAN0134 Joan Grant
 SAN0138 V Protheroe
 SAN0139 Methodist Action North West
 SAN0140 Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
 SAN0142 Department for Work and Pensions
 SAN0143 Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion
 SAN0144 Shaw Trust
 SAN0145 Employment Related Services Association
 SAN0146 One Parent Families Scotland
 SAN0148 Children in Scotland
 SAN0149 Mark Sage, Assistant Tackling Poverty Co-ordinator at Portsmouth City Council

5. Pension reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

Christopher Woolard, Director of Policy, Risk and Research Division and David Geale, Director of Policy, Financial Conduct Authority, and Stephen Soper, Chief Executive, and Charles Counsell, Executive Director for Automatic Enrolment, The Pensions Regulator, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 7 January at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 7 January 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams	Nigel Mills
Graham Evans	Anne Marie Morris
Sheila Gilmore	Teresa Pearce
Glenda Jackson	Mr Michael Thornton
Paul Maynard	

1. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence received from the Child Poverty Action Group relating to the inquiry into benefit sanctions policy beyond the Oakley Review be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

Tony Wilson, Policy Director, Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion, Philip J Connolly, Policy and Communications Manager, Disability Rights UK, Kirsty McHugh, Chief Executive, Employment Related Services Association, Paul Farmer, Chief Executive Officer, Mind, and Matthew Oakley, recent independent reviewer of JSA sanctions, gave oral evidence.

Keith Dryburgh, Policy Manager, Citizens Advice Scotland, Professor Peter Dwyer, Professor of Social Policy, University of York, and Principal Investigator, Welfare Conditionality project, Nikki Hart, Blackpool Food Partnership Co-ordinator, Methodist Action North West, Chris Mould, Chairman, The Trussell Trust, and Dr David Webster, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, University of Glasgow, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 12 January at 4.15p.m.]

Monday 12 January 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Graham Evans
Kwasi Kwarteng
Nigel Mills

Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce

1. Winter fuel payments

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Progress with disability and incapacity benefit reforms

Ordered, that the written evidence received from the Department for Work and Pensions on progress with disability and incapacity benefit reforms be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

3. Pension reforms

Ordered, that the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into progress with automatic enrolment and pension reforms be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

AEP0040 Prudential

AEP0042 Investment Management Association

Rt Hon Steve Webb MP, Minister of State for Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14 January at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 14 January 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Kwasi Kwarteng

Paul Maynard
Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Mr Michael Thornton

1. Pre-appointment hearing

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Pension reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 January at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 21 January 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Kwasi Kwarteng

Paul Maynard
Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce

1. DWP Mid-Year Report

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into benefit sanctions policy beyond the Oakley Review be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

SAN0156	New Policy Institute
SAN0158	The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church

Alison Garnham, Chief Executive, Child Poverty Action Group, Lois Race, Service Manager, Derbyshire County Council, Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite, Durham University, and Fiona Weir, Chief Executive Officer, Gingerbread, gave oral evidence. Ben Robinson, Head of Policy, Community Links, Steve Hughes, Head of Economic and Social Policy, Policy Exchange, Mark Serwotka, General Secretary, and Helen Flanagan, Vice-President DWP, Public and Commercial Services Union, and Professor David Stuckler, University of Oxford, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 28 January at 9.15 am.]

Wednesday 28 January 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Kwasi Kwarteng

Paul Maynard
Nigel Mills
Teresa Pearce
Mr Michael Thornton

1. Petition

The Committee considered a petition to the House from residents of the Bolton West constituency concerning the social sector size criteria for housing benefit (presented by Julie Hilling MP), and observations from DWP.

2. Disability and incapacity benefit reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

Mark Harper MP, Minister for Disabled People, Noel Shanahan, Director General, Operations, and Justin Russell, Director, ESA Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 February at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 4 February 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce
Mr Michael Thornton

1. Pre-appointment hearing

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Estimates Day Debate

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

Rt Hon Esther McVey MP, Minister for Employment, and Chris Hayes, Director, Labour Market Strategy, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 9 February at 4.30 p.m.]

Monday 9 February 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Nigel Mills

Teresa Pearce

Anne Marie Morris

1. DWP Supplementary Estimate 2014-15

Ordered, That the Department for Work and Pensions Memorandum to the Committee on the Supplementary Estimate 2014-15 be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 February at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Graham Evans
Sheila Gilmore
Kwasi Kwarteng

Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Mr Michael Thornton

1. Pre-appointment hearing

The Committee considered this matter.

Mr Anthony Arter, the Department for Work and Pensions' preferred candidate for the post of Pensions Ombudsman and Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman, gave oral evidence.

Draft Report (*Appointment of the Pensions Ombudsman and the Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman*) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 March at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 4 March 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris

1. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, that written evidence received from Philip Batley relating to the inquiry into benefit sanctions policy beyond the Oakley Review be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

2. Pension reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Progress with automatic enrolment and pension reforms*) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 March at 9.15 a.m.]

Wednesday 18 March 2015

Members present:

Dame Anne Begg, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams
Sheila Gilmore
Glenda Jackson
Paul Maynard

Nigel Mills
Anne Marie Morris
Teresa Pearce

1. Publication of written evidence

Ordered, That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, written evidence received before the dissolution of Parliament shall be reported to the House for publication.

2. Access to work

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Benefit sanctions

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Benefit sanctions policy beyond the Oakley Review*) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee.

[The Committee adjourned.]

APPENDIX

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

10 September 2014

Paul Maynard

Donations to constituency party or association

Donor – United and Cecil Club: £2,400 (registered 23 October 2013) and £2,500 (registered 10 April 2014).

Support in capacity as an MP

Donor – Scott Saunders (private donor): £1,800 (registered 19 August 2013)

Overseas Visits

Donor – Conservative Friends of Israel: £2,000 for travel, accommodation and other costs for visit to Israel and the West Bank, 17-22 February 2013 as part of fact-finding political delegation.

DECLARATION OF SPECIALIST ADVISER'S INTERESTS

July 2014

David Yeandle OBE: updated declaration

Member of NEST Corporation's Employers' Panel.

Governor and Member of the Council of the Pensions Policy Institute

Independent President of the United Nations Staff-Management Committee (appointment by the UN Secretary-General)

October 2014

David Yeandle OBE: updated declaration

Member of NEST Corporation's Employers' Panel.

Governor and Member of the Council of the Pensions Policy Institute

Independent President of the United Nations Staff-Management Committee (appointment by the UN Secretary-General)

Member of the Employers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee representing the United Kingdom.